

TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 1 Nr. 22

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

November 9, 2005



Aviation Disaster Training

See page 3

News in brief

Hohenfels Bazaar

The Bazaar will be held Nov. 18 – 20- in the Post Gym, bldg. 88. This will be the biggest bazaar ever for Hohenfels, and will feature many different vendors from all over Europe. Some will be coming to a bazaar for the very first time. Come out and finish your Christmas shopping early. Hours for the bazaar are: Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Native American dance

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month, dance performances are scheduled at the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck elementary schools.

Morning Star will perform dances 1-2:30 p.m., Nov. 18, at Vilseck Elementary School.

Grupo Calli Aztec will perform dances 1:30-2:30 p.m., Nov. 21, at Grafenwoehr Elementary School.

Performances are free and will be in each school's multipurpose room.

Call 475-7215 or 09641-83-7215 for more information about either performance.

Kids Club tumbles

The Hohenfels Child and Youth Services program offers a Kids Club for children younger than age five. The group meets each Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the School Age Services Gym, Bldg. 112, for running, tumbling, ball plays and more.

The program is free. Call 466-2078 or 09472-83-2078 for more information.

Page turners

Children's Book Week will be Nov. 14-18 at Vilseck Elementary School. During the week, students are encouraged to turn off the television and turn the pages of their favorite books. Students then turn in reading records to their teachers for small prizes. For more information, call 476-3251.

Officer candidate board convenes

The 7th Army Training Command officer candidate board will meet Nov. 30, 8 a.m., in the Command Conference Room, building 621. Soldiers interested in becoming officers have until Nov. 16 to submit packets to the G1. Contact the unit S1 for assistance or call 475-6952 for more information.

Family Fun Night set

Vilseck Elementary School will have Family Fun Game Night Nov. 16, 5:30-7 p.m., in the school library. Students need to take a parent to enjoy the fun.

For more information, call 476-3251.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

California will hold a Special General Election Dec. 6 for a Representative in Congress from the 48th District.

Virginia will provide expedited absentee voting for residents assisting in hurricane relief.

More voting Information can be found at www.fvap.gov.

18th CSB forges ahead

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

"We forge ahead" is the exemplified motto of the 18th Corps Support Battalion, as they, and the 7th Corps Support Group, prepare for another deployment to Iraq.

Hundreds of Soldiers, family and community members showed their support and respect for the Soldiers at the Oct. 29 departure ceremony held in Grafenwoehr's Field House.

Following the presentation of colors and the national anthem, Col. Catherine G. Haight, 7th Corps Support Group commander, and Lt. Col. David J. Luders, 18th CSB commander, addressed the troops standing in formation in front of the expectant audience.

Haight assured family members that the troops were much better equipped and trained for this second tour of duty, expressing confidence with "every one of these guys standing before you will get the job done...[and]...are as well-prepared as they possibly can be."

PV2 Jonathon Days, one of the newest 18th CSB Soldiers, echoed Haight's remarks with "we've been trained, trained, and trained again. I feel very confident about it."

See 18th CSB, page 4



German marksmanship medals were presented to 30 18th CSB Soldiers by Freihung German reservists Oct. 29. German Lt. Col. Norbert Buecherl, also mayor of Freihung (2nd row, 2nd from left), and Lt. Col. David J. Luders (right).

AFAP "heroes" makes a difference

by Alice Adler
Training Times

Representatives from Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels gathered at the Amberg Congress Centrum Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 to discuss and attempt to solve some of the communities' and the Army's current problems and difficulties.

The three-day conference was the Army Family Action Plan, a complex problem solving system that works on some of the most important problems and issues that affect our military today.

For the past few months boxes have been placed in key areas all around the three posts. Community members have been asked to fill out forms with any and all of their complaints and problems. The forms were gathered and separated into various categories such as Medical and Dental, Force Support, and Housing and Relocation.

On Oct. 31, a group of delegates that represented a cross section of the three communities gathered to start the local AFAP process. Spouses, active duty personnel, retirees, and civilian employees were all represented amongst those gathered in Amberg.

When greeting the assembled delegates, Command Sgt. Maj. William Ellenburg told the volunteers "This is the most important thing that's happening in the command, in this community, for this week."

Ginger Perkins, wife of Col. (P) David Perkins thanked the delegates for the hard work that lay ahead of them, "From the bottom of my heart and my husband's heart, thank you."

AFAP Program Manager Michelle McLaughlin gave the delegates a bit of advice: "Remember you are here representing the entire Army," she said. "I promise you it's going to be an eye-opening experience."

Over the next three days work groups of delegates, aided by more community members who volunteered in various positions to help the process run smoothly, discussed all of the issues presented. The mission of each work group was to decide which of the issues they were given were issues that impacted the Army as a whole. These issues were researched, discussed and rewritten to be presented to the command on the last day at the AFAP conference out-brief.

These selected issues will be sent on to the next level AFAP conference in Heidelberg. Issues that cannot be solved at the USAREUR level are then sent to the Headquarters, Department of the Army Conference. There issues are prioritized and sorted before finally being reviewed by the General Officer's Steering Committee in Washington, D.C. In addition, the committee also reviews issues from past AFAP conferences to make sure that they are being worked on and resolved.

The issues that are worked often result in

major changes to the Army. In AFAP's 22-year history there have been 83 changes in legislation, 150 new or changed Army policies, and 140 programs and services that have been initiated or improved as a direct result of issues raised at AFAP conferences.

But what becomes of the issues that are not sent to a higher level? Not to worry, every last issue submitted is discussed, reviewed and worked in the various levels of the AFAP process.

All of the Conference issues and the resulting responses are published annually in an issue update book that is distributed to communities. In the book the issues are categorized as having been completed, actively being worked, currently unattainable or elevated to the next level AFAP Conference.

"It is an excellent process," said McLaughlin. "It is specifically designed so that community members get their voice heard. You are guaranteed to get a response to your issue one way or another."

At the closing out-brief Wednesday afternoon, Ellenburg thanked the delegates for the three grueling days of work.

"The Army turns today because of the heroes that sit in this room." Ellenburg assured the delegates the conference was sure to have an impact Army-wide.

See AFAP, page 4

Graf Chapel shows troop support with visit to Landstuhl Medical Center

by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

Appreciation, encouragement and speedy recovery were only a few of the thoughts that military and civilian members expressed to service members during an Oct. 22 visit to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Medical Transient Detachment organization.

The bus trip, coordinated by the Grafenwoehr chapel, was made in response to local members in the community wanting to show support to the men and women in uniform. "People told us they wanted to go visit with the Soldiers and it needed to be done. We put the word out and people showed up for the bus trip," said Mindy Hardin, outreach coordinator for the Grafenwoehr protestant service.

The medical detachment organization has been up and running since 2003, and will continue to be a part of the military equation as long as there are service members in need. "We see a lot of non-battle injuries and very few battle injuries which require extensive care in our facility. We're a joint service organization. We have service members arriving and leaving every day.

We assist Soldiers, airmen, sailors, coast guardsmen, and marines," said 1st Lt. Anne Stephens, company commander of the Medical Transient Detachment.

Service members begin the process of receiving assistance after getting off a plane from Afghanistan or Iraq. After arriving at the contingency aeronautical staging facility in Ramstein, they are transported to LRMC. They then go through the triage system, and depending on the severity of their injury after arrival, are either put on in-patient or out-patient status.

If they are having mobility issues or need to be close to the hospital for any reason they stay at the Ramstein Inn in Landstuhl, or they come to the Medical Transient Detachment for out-patient care. Service members get in-processed and then can start going to various appointments.

The out-patient facility has an average of 120 to 150 service members coming in for treatment daily. "Our numbers have stayed pretty consistent for the eight months I have been here. We get service members 24-hours a day depending on when they arrive at Ramstein and get through the process at Landstuhl," said Stephens.

A service member's average stay is between two to six days, and some may stay as long as a month depending on the type of services needed. "We house service members and make sure they are getting fed. At the end of their stay here we transfer them over to Landstuhl or Ramstein depending on their needs. We make sure they are going through the process, to either go back downrange or go to another facility to receive further care," said Stephens.

Although Fisher House and the medical transient detachment have the same goals of providing help for service members, there is a slight difference between the two organizations according to Stephens: "The difference between the medical transient detachment and Fisher House is that Fisher House is an independent organization. It supports the family members that come over to see their service members that are on in-patient status. We are a military organization that houses single and married service members. But we don't house family members – only Soldiers."

See Graf Chapel, page 4

Q&A

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?



Liz Anderson

"Working for WELLKIN as a military contractor."

Spc. Richard Greenly

"Living in a house in Iowa with my best friend."



Spc. LeeAnn Ball

"I'm going to be an officer in the military as a nurse anesthetist."



Spc. Ryan Dusold

"Probably in physician's assistant school."



Spc. Steven Enriques

"As an E-6 with a Bachelor's degree."



Cpl. Kenneth L. Brown, Jr.

"Probably in the medical field in the military, but I have to keep my options open."



Interviews and photos by Shannon Hill

Thoughts while moving around

Volunteers, Parent Teachers Conferences, CFC, Flu Shots and Private Organizations

by Col. Brian Boyle
USAG Grafenwoehr Commander

I hope all had a great Halloween, and with the days getting shorter and the fog moving in, there is lots to discuss so let's get right into it.

Volunteers. The Fall Child Youth Sports program was another great success. Thanks to Anita Payne's hard-working staff and, most importantly, all the family members and Soldiers who volunteered their time and efforts to teach our children this fall.

It's pretty amazing as in my travels I run into the same people volunteering for multiple events. Scouting, religious education and sports – it's all the same people. I encourage all of you to come join me as the winter sports program begins, or other annual programs continue, and help make a positive impact on our youth. You don't even have to be an expert – we just need your time.

Parent Teachers Conferences. Along with the end of the fall sports program, the first edition of parent teacher conferences are rapidly approaching. Simply put – it should be your place of duty. Parents are the best teachers of their children and, together with their teachers, can map out what is best for their children.



Col. Boyle

CFC. The Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing and many have donated a great deal of money. I, the Army, and most importantly, the organizations you have donated to thank you. The goal of the community is everyone eligible is approached and offered a chance to donate. I ask you to strongly consider giving generously to these great organizations.

Flu shots. I am sure many have heard of the Avian flu and are at least partially concerned that it may impact you or your loved ones. All TMCs

have received the flu vaccine this year. This flu vaccine has no impact on avian flu but is designed to ward off other flu vaccines. All units should contact the local health clinics and arrange for vaccinations of personnel.

Family Readiness Groups and Private Organizations. Many of you are aware of recent changes in funding for Family Readiness Groups. Rest assured we are investigating the changes and will provide data to all affected personnel as soon as possible. On a related note, we are researching private organizations and their ability to solicit for goods to include their interactions with AAFES. Finally, we are in the process of identifying all home-based businesses. Again, as changes/updates occur, we will let the entire community know how they can operate (legally) and still accomplish their goals.

In closing, I was incredibly impressed by the farewell ceremony for 18 CSB. Our best wishes go with this unit as one-half deploys and we await the return of the other one-half of their unit. Congratulations to the Hohenfels High School Football team. They have qualified for the finals and will travel to the Super 6 championship in Baumholder. We all hope they bring home the championship trophy.

Embrace families of the deployed

by Gen. B.B. Bell
Commander, USAREUR

The month of November brings two holidays of special significance to Americans: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Veterans Day was established to honor our veterans and thank those who continue to serve by defending our freedom and our way of life. Thanksgiving is a time when communities, families and friends come together to reflect on our freedom and give thanks for our blessings. I ask that you take some time during these holidays to think about members of the USAREUR family who are deployed in support of our Nation's conflicts. If there is a family in your community that has a deployed Soldier, please embrace the family and bring them into yours. I also ask that we all use this time to renew our commitment to the Army Values and to taking care of one another.

November in Europe also brings cold weather and darker days. As winter approaches, keep in mind the goal of the Winter Safety Campaign: No Loss of Life. So far this year we are way off track and USAREUR Soldiers are dying in vehi-

cle crashes at an alarming rate. It's incredibly difficult to see a Soldier survive repeated combat deployments only to die in a horrific vehicle crash in garrison sanctuary. We can stop this. Our goal can be achieved if every member of the Army in Europe – officers, NCOs, Soldiers, civilians and family members – makes a commitment to safety over the upcoming holidays and throughout the winter. First-line supervisors must make the difference with "Under the Oak Tree Counseling," while leaders up the chain effectively supervise and insist on meeting the standard.

The long weekends associated with the holidays will be accompanied by an increase in travel as well as cold-weather activities such as hiking, skiing and snowboarding. The potential for accidents and injuries during this time will also increase. No matter how you spend your holidays, include returning to your home or barracks alive in your plans. Adhere to the following:

- Our number-one killer is off-duty vehicular accidents, and most of our serious injuries are

from sports and physical activities. If you plan to travel over the long holiday weekends, ensure your vehicle is prepared for travel. Likewise, if you intend to participate in winter sports, ensure that you are properly conditioned for the sport and wear the proper attire. If you are a first-line leader, do not – do not – let your subordinate depart the area until you reach a clear text, verbal contract on behavior on the roads. Ensure your subordinates will not drink and drive.

- As winter approaches, the hours of daylight will decrease and fog will be more common. These factors, along with inclement weather – rain, sleet and snow – lead to decreased visibility and slippery roads. Drivers must be prepared for a variety of dangerous, icy road conditions, including black ice, glare ice and white ice. The best way to combat this increased risk is to slow down. Also keep an eye on the weather forecast. If the forecast indicates bad or worsening weather, postpone your travel until conditions improve.

See **Embrace**, page 4

HISSES AND HURRAHS

Hurrah to the Hohenfels Hurricanes swim team on a meet well swum. The following swimmers were triple winners in an Oct. 23 meet against Bamberg and Wuerzburg: Brittany Barnes, Chrissy Berke, Angela Gutierrez, Karl Hoeh, Stephanie Larumbe, and Ian Sellers.

Hurrah to Sgt. Timothy Sprague, HHC, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division for being named the V Corps Food Service NCO of the Year as well as USAREUR Culinary NCO of the Year. Sprague, was presented his award at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany, Oct. 24.



V Corps Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, left, congratulates Sgt. Timothy Sprague Oct. 24.

Hohenfels reporter big on volunteer work

Alice Adler, a native of Marshfield, Mass., has been covering the Hohenfels community in the Training Times for the past year-and-a-half.

Married to William Adler for more than 11 years, Adler enjoys photography, scrapbooking, reading, walking her dog, and cooking.

A veteran traveler who has contributed numerous photo spreads on popular sites in Europe, Adler has traveled to France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and Egypt.

Her aspiration is to continue working to make Army life better for all, and accomplishes much of that through volunteer work.

She is currently a volunteer with the Hohenfels Civilians and Spouses' Club, Army Family Action Plan, American Women's Activities – Germany, and the Hohenfels Catholic Chapel. In the past she has also volunteered with various Family Readiness Groups, Army Family Team Building, the Armed Forces YMCA, the Fort Bliss Junior Enlisted Family Center, and several other spouses' clubs. "Volunteering is the best way to make new friends," she said.

If you have a program, event or activity that you want considered for coverage in the Training Times, e-mail usaggnews@graf.eur.army.mil or call DSN 475-NEWS (6397) or civilian 09641-83-6397.



Alice Adler

TRAINING TIMES

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**

Roswitha Lehner
Zeilaeckerstrasse 35 • 92637 Weiden • Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Training Times is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Training Times is printed by Werbebegeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Training Times, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usaggnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Training Times at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.



USAG-G Commander
Col. Brian Boyle

USAG-G Public Affairs Officer
Kathleen Gibbs (475-8103)

Command Information Chief
Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

Grafenwoehr Correspondent
Shannon Hill (475-1600)

Hohenfels
Alice Adler (466-2479)

Vilseck
Kathy Jordan (476-1600)

“Copter down”

Local firefighters train to respond

by **Gerry Arbios**
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

The dusk twilight hour had just settled over the field as a helicopter veered to the right before making an emergency landing near the town of Hemau. Three crew members were injured. A cloud of smoke enveloped the aircraft as the firetrucks raced out to the field.

This was the scene Oct. 21 during one of four exercises that took place in the areas surrounding the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

When an aircraft goes down in the local community, local firemen will be on the scene. Chance Clagett, Airfield Safety Officer, coordinated the training with the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Fire Department and Host Nation fire departments for four training exercises in October to help local firefighters respond and assist if an aircraft goes down in their vicinity. Four ex-

ercises took place on these dates in the following towns:

- Oct. 20 – Neumarkt
- Oct. 21 – Regensburg (Hemau)
- Oct. 27 – Amberg
- Oct. 28 – Schwandorf

Through realistic scenarios, the training will help preserve lives, equipment and resources in the event of a serious aviation mishap within the four counties surrounding the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. During the training, the firefighters learned how to approach a downed aircraft and emergency shutdown procedures, as well as assisting the crash scene “injured.”

Wolfgang Scheuerer, Kreis Brand Inspector, brought 67 volunteer firefighters and three Bavarian Red Cross staff to take part in the crash-drill training. The firefighters and BRK came from the following towns: Hemau (31),

Hohenschambach (8), Klingen (6), Koillersried (9), Laufenthal (10), and Haag (8).

The training, which reflects the close cooperation with Host Nation officials and the U.S. Army, has been ongoing since 1996.

Clagett was supported by a host of installation staff to include Gert Fuchs, Deputy Chief, F&ES Hohenfels, and the Falcon Team. He said the cooperation from the Host Nation was great: “The end state of this training is that it benefited everyone, both on and off the JMRC. In the event of serious aircraft acci-



Photo by Lara Clagett

German fire departments and the Bavarian Red Cross worked with the Army to conduct training in what to do in event of an aviation disaster.

dent/incident precious lives, equipment, and the environment can be saved.”

OHA changes impact Soldiers

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany – Some U.S. Army, Europe Soldiers may see changes in their housing allowances as the Department of Defense implements new housing allowance.

These changes stem from legislation that changes the way housing allowances are computed.

Essentially, the changes relate to the Overseas Housing Allowance. Previously, OHA contained a basic allowance for housing (called BAH Type II for locations outside the continental U.S.) and a supplement to reimburse for cost of housing. The changes eliminate BAH Type II as an allowance, and bases OHA totally on reimbursable housing costs. Soldiers who were receiving only BAH II will lose this allowance.

USAREUR-based Soldiers in the following categories may have seen pay changes in their October Leave and Earn-

ings Statement:

1. Soldiers living off post with no lease registered with the housing office;
2. Single Soldiers living in economy housing who subsequently deploy and do not retain their off-post lease agreement;
3. Soldiers who perform an Early Return of Dependents (ERD) at their own expense.

Also, single Soldiers drawing any BAH differential allowance for child support will see a change in their January 2006 LES.

These new rules have been published in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation and the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation.

For more detailed information regarding these and other housing allowance changes and financial issues, go to the 266th Finance Command website at (<https://www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil/>).

Changes to eArmyU

Graf/Vilseck Army Education Center

More Soldiers are now eligible to enroll in the laptop option of the eArmyU program. Soldiers are encouraged to visit www.earmyu.com to become familiar with the program and read about the new eligibility criteria for FY 06. These changes enlarge the scope of Soldiers who may meet eligibility enrollment criteria. Soldiers are advised to see their Retention Counselors to determine if they meet all enrollment eligibility criteria.

The eArmyU eCourse enrollment is expanded to all Officers effective Oct. 1, providing another viable option for them to obtain their degrees. Officers/commissioned warrant officers who enroll in eArmyU courses will incur a 2-year active duty service obligation (ADSO) beginning at the end date of the last course for which TA is issued. Soldiers who want to participate in eArmyU and who are not eligible for the laptop enrollment may be eligible for the eCourse enrollment.

YOUR ARMY EDUCATION CENTER

The Army Education Center is a lifelong learning facility. It is staffed with trained education specialists whose primary responsibility is to provide information, counseling and professional assistance to help you in planning your education future. The Vilseck and Grafenwoehr centers offer a wide variety of services and programs which include: Post secondary and graduate level degrees, academic and Army personnel testing, tutoring services, Learning Center/Computer Lab, Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP), and language classes.

NEW GI BILL RATES

Effective Oct. 1, GI Bill monthly rates have been increased from \$1004 to \$1034 for veterans attending college on a full-time basis. For additional information on rates visit www.va.gov.

For more information on programs and service offered locally, call DSN 476-2653/2457 or civilian 09662-83-2653/2457.

Watch for more Army education news and information in upcoming issues of Training Times.

In brief

SAEDA classes mandatory

Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities will conduct a Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army (SAEDA) class Nov. 18 in each community’s theater.

Class schedules follow:

- Grafenwoehr
- 9-10:30 a.m., U.S. personnel
- 10:30 a.m.-noon – local national personnel
- Vilseck
- 1-2:30 p.m., U.S. personnel
- 2:30-4 p.m., local national personnel

AFTB training

Army Family Team Building offers more than 40 continuing education courses organized on three levels. Call 09662-83-2650, or stop by Building 221, Room 207, Rose Barracks to register for the Level III class, Nov. 16-18, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Holiday postal deadlines set

To ensure your packages to the United States are delivered before Christmas, follow the mailing guidelines below:

- SAM parcels – Nov. 18;
- PAL parcels – Dec. 2;
- Priority parcels – Dec. 9;
- First class letters – Dec. 9;
- Express mail – Dec. 21.

Contact your local post office for more information.

Holiday mail times

Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Consolidated Mail Rooms and post offices will start their extended Holiday hours on Nov. 14 through Dec. 30. Check out your weekly community newsletters for specific times.

Hohenfels Winter weather watch

As winter weather closes in, Hohenfels community members can follow these tips for staying safe and warm:

School closure or delay information and road conditions will be broadcast on AFN Radio AM 1485 (broadcasting begins at 5 a.m.)

The Installation Operations Center will electronically notify everyone on road conditions and school closures on the News Brief distribution list.

For road, weather conditions and school closures, check the Command Information Channel or the USAREUR webpage <http://g3operations.hqusareur.army.mil/AsgConditions.asp>.

The MP Station Hotline (466-4001, or 09472-83-4001) gives up-to-date road conditions and school closure information.

Free car inspections

AAFES Car Care centers will conduct free car winterization inspections for family members of deployed Soldiers. Employees will conduct the free inspection and advise the customer about points of concern, such as antifreeze levels, but products and services beyond the inspection will be a cost to the customer.

Contact your local AAFES Car Care Center to schedule an appointment.

WOA seeks members

The Oberpfalz-Franken chapter of the U.S. Warrant Officer Association is looking for members. The association meets 11:30 a.m., the second Thursday of every month.

For more information, call Warrant Officer 3 Senkbile at 475-7160 or 09641-83-7160, or e-mail ryan.dale.senkbile@us.army.mil.

Bazaar help needed

Volunteers are needed for the HCSC Winter Bazaar Nov. 18-20. Call 09492-601799 for more information.

Community closures

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck education centers will be closed Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The Vilseck Photo Express doors closed permanently Oct. 30. Community members can still drop off film for development to any AAFES shoppette. Also, the Vilseck Flower Shop will close permanently Nov. 12.

Vilseck’s NAF Personnel Office is closed temporarily. Individuals can access information about non-appropriated fund employment by visiting the website, www.chra.eur.army.mil. Call 475-6886/6887 or 09641-83-6886/6887 for more information.

CFC-O continues

The Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas is part of the largest workplace giving campaign in the world. Employees may contribute to the campaign through Dec. 2. For information or assistance, call Christine Nunez at 475-8432 or 09641-83-8432.

Hohenfels PXtra extends hours

The Hohenfels PXtra is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every Tuesday through the holiday season. AAFES management is using this expanded holiday service to test the viability of the extra opening day. If the community does not support the new hours, the PXtra will revert to its limited hours Jan. 1.

PXtra holiday hours are:

- Tuesday through Saturday – 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday – 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Mondays – Closed.

HCSC sets scholarship request deadline

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club will award \$6,000 in scholarships. Eligible community members include active duty Soldiers, GS civilians, government contractors, and command-sponsored family members who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees while living in the Hohenfels community. High school student scholarship applications are available in the high school guidance counselor’s office, room 105. Adult scholarship applications are available in the education center, Bldg. 351. Submission deadline is Feb. 24.

Hohenfels electricity provider to change

The Hohenfels Department of Public Works Housing office is changing electricity pro-

viders in some leased and GRHP housing areas. In the next couple of months, a representative from the Utilities Division will stop by some quarters to take actual meter readings. The representative will come in a government vehicle and will wear a name tag for identification purposes.

Hohenfels Health Clinic renovations

Renovation of the Hohenfels Health Clinic will include new optometry and physical therapy rooms as well as new floors and air conditioning. Temporary shelters are in place in front of the health clinic for uninterrupted services to the community.

AAFES Thanksgiving hours set

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, AAFES sets services schedules as follows:

Grafenwoehr

- Burger King and Anthony’s Pizza – Regular hours
- Shoppette – Regular hours
- Gas Station – Regular hours
- Car Care Center – Regular Hours
- Algiers Shoppette – Based on training
- MCSS and Office Source – Closed
- Camp Normandy – Closed

Hohenfels

- PX and PXtra – 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Shoppette and Gas Station – Regular hours
- MCSS And Shoppette, Albertshof – Closed
- Burger King and Anthony’s Pizza – 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Robin Hood – Closed

Vilseck

- PX and PXtra – 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Food Court and Subway – 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Car Care Center – Regular hours
- MCSS and Furniture Store – Closed
- Shoppette – 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Burger King walk-in – 7 a.m.-7 p.m. (Drive-thru open until 7:30 p.m.)

Concessions in all three communities will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

18th CSB

Continued from page 1

Recognizing the dedication and acceptance required by both family members and Soldiers, Luders applauded the family members and said that they “are truly the unsung heroes of this war.”

The ceremony ended with the casing of the battalion’s colors, after which people were invited to attend the reception at the old gym in Graf. The Family Readiness Group had set up tables and had pigs roasting.

Family members expressed confidence in their Soldiers’ training. “I’m really confident in the way they’ve trained and prepared for the mission. They have to do the job and we have to support them,” said Tonia Henry.

“They’re as well-trained as they can be,” said Melanie Favire.

It’s well-accepted that a good family component is key to a job well done: Webcam, phone calls, the internet, and letters are all available sources of communication. “The only thing we can do is be supportive and that helps them to know that everything at home is under control,” said Angel Washington, mother of six.

Michael Cook spoke of his confidence in his dad, and his continued planned communication: “I write him once a week and I tell him about my week.”

The well-armed and well-trained Soldiers have departed, but they and family members alike can take comfort in Lt. Col. Luders’ words: “it’s time for us to go so we can come back.”



Photo by Nick D’Amario

PV2 Jonathan Days, one of the newest 18th CSB Soldiers, said he feels “confident” about the deployment.



Photo by Nick D’Amario

Clifford Lowe, left, stands next to VFW members Joseph McCarthy and Donald Cannon during the 18th CSB ceremony.

Embrace families of the deployed

Continued from page 2

● Fatigue affects reaction time. Recent studies indicate that fatigue may be as dangerous to drivers as the consumption of alcohol. Make sure you get enough sleep before a long drive. Also, avoid traveling alone; use the buddy system to increase the probability of a safe journey. The best approach to safe travel is plenty of rest before and frequent breaks during the trip, and never – never – drink and drive.

The measures in Paragraph 3 are all part of good composite risk management. Taking these measures can save your life. Ask yourself what is going to kill me and my buddies? and adjust your plans accordingly. Leaders, enforce and execute Under the Oak Tree Counseling, and get that contract.

If you witness an unsafe act, don’t walk by; take action. All of us are responsible for looking out for one other to eliminate crashes that kill our warriors. You must do your part. With everyone’s awareness and participation, our goal of No Loss of Life is absolutely achievable. Enjoy the holidays, but do so with the intention of coming back alive. I need everyone to return from the holidays prepared to continue executing with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

AFAP

Continued from page 1

“Some people say we’re asking for too much, I don’t think we’re asking for enough,” he said. “It will make a difference and it’s been making a difference.”

2005 USAG Grafenwoehr and USAG Hohenfels AFAP Conference Elevated Issues:

Dislocation Allowance (DLA) for Command Directed Moves

Telecommunications Customer Service

On-Post Private Storage Units Fenced Backyards

“Some people say we’re asking for too much, I don’t think we’re asking for enough.”

- for On-Post Housing
- Interior Washable Paint for Government Housing Units
- Scheduled Appointments for Department of Public Works (DPW) Services
- Child-Care Assistance for Deployed Soldiers
- Transportation for Child and Youth Services Activities
- College Sports Scholarships for OCONUS Student Athletes
- Interior Play Facility for Children Kids Zones in USAREUR
- Family Readiness

- Group (FRG) Current Operating Budget
- Family Readiness Group (FRG) Fundraising Outside of their Own Unit
- Government Hiring system Using Resumix Program
- Tricare Dental Program (TDP) Lifetime and Annual Maximum Payments
- Army Body Fat Measurement Standards
- Civilian Health Fairs
- OCONUS Breast Pump Availability
- Family Member Financial Support During Marital Separation
- Stalking Awareness Prevention
- Impact of Frequent 12 Month Deployments
- Relationship between Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) and Transportation Agreement.

Graf Chapel

Continued from page 1

The medical detachment facility has many things to offer Soldiers that arrive there after being stationed in Afghanistan or Iraq. There is a craft center, game room and telephone center, and the facility welcomes donations to give service members a variety of things to do to stay occupied.

“Most of the items we have here are donated by organizations from the States or locally. We try to make it a relaxed environment. We are always in need of non-perishable items like bottled water, snack items-snack wells, popcorn,

hostess items, and soup-in-a-cup things like that,” said Stephens.

After the visit some of the bus riders reflected on their stay at the medical detachment unit. “I thought it was important to be here today because we are getting ready to deploy and we have units already deployed. In case we have somebody who is injured it will be important to know what kind of facilities they are going to be coming back to, and if they need something. Reaching out to others who maybe are not as fortunate as we are can make life a lot easier,” said Lt. Col. David Luders, commander of the 18th

Corp Support Battalion.

“I am here today because I felt that it would be not only a kind gesture, but it was a necessary thing to do to support our troops and show them that people care about them,” said Sgt. Theresa Smith.

If you would like to send donations or need more information, contact the 21st Troop Support Battalion, Unit: 23203, ATTN: Medical Transient Detachment, APO, AE 09263, or e-mail Stephens at anne.stephens@ind.amedd.army.mil.

Vilseck honors fallen Soldier

by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

A Nov. 1 memorial service at the Vilseck Chapel honored the life of Staff Sgt. Lewis J. Gentry, a member of Headquarters and Support Company, 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy).

Gentry died Oct. 26 in Mosul, Iraq, from a non-combat related cause. The incident is still under investigation.

For his contributions and sacrifices while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, Gentry will be posthumously awarded a Bronze Star.

Gentry, 48, of Detroit, Michigan, enlisted in November 1956 as a Motor Transport Officer and completed basic training and advanced individual training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

“He kindled a flame of courage, strength and compassion in the hearts of everyone he led, served or helped,” said Capt. Therese Kelley, 94th Engineer Combat Battalion rear detachment commander.

Fellow Soldier Sgt. Sean Diamond spoke of his character and kindness towards others. “I

shared many lengthy conversations with Staff Sgt. Gentry; he was so easy to get along with. He knew when to be tough and he knew how to listen. He cared about his Soldiers and put their needs ahead of his own.”

Sgt. Bradley Oldenburg talked about Gentry’s love of Michigan sports teams and his leadership and compassion for others.

“He was a gentle giant, a man of few words,” said Lt. Col. Alfred Pantano, 94th Engineer Combat Battalion commander. “He was an outstanding Soldier, a great friend and will be missed by all.”

Gentry’s awards and decorations include the Presidential Unit Citation, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal-five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal-6th Award, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the Southwest Asia Service Ribbon, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon-numeral two, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas

Service Ribbon-numeral four, the NATO Medal, the Saudi Liberation Medal, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and the Driver’s Badge.

Gentry is survived by two daughters, Shanna Dubose and Jessica Andrews, and sister, Phyllis Gentry of Detroit Michigan.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Bugler Spc. Justin Smitchger of the US-AREUR band and chorus plays Taps at the memorial service of Staff Sgt. Lewis J. Gentry, Nov. 1 at the Vilseck Chapel.

A Grinch has ruined commissary Christmas candies

by Kay Blakley, DeCA Europe
Consumer Advocate

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Defense Commissary Agency Europe officials have the unfortunate duty to inform commissary shoppers that this year’s shipment of U.S. specialty Christmas candies sustained damage in transit, resulting in a reduced selection of gift-type chocolates available at commissaries throughout Europe.

Random sampling by military food inspectors revealed a number of chocolates had surface blemishes commonly referred to as “bloom.” Bloom results when the cocoa butter has separated and risen to the surface of the chocolate, giving it a dull or grayish-white appearance. This happens when the chocolate is subjected to either too humid or too warm storage conditions. This is a quality issue negatively affecting the appearance, texture, and taste of chocolates. It is not a food safety issue – such chocolates can be consumed without harm.

Because of limited production cycles of specialty candies for the holiday season, options for replacing the damaged shipment are not available. All holiday candies determined by military food inspectors to be unaffected, are being shipped to commissaries for sale. Commissary officials expect these items to be in excellent condition; however, customers are encouraged to return any chocolates failing to meet those expectations.

AFN-Bavaria entertains, informs, protects

Local station provides local focus

by Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
AFN Bavaria Station Commander

American Forces Network – Bavaria, simply known as AFN, is trying to do more than provide the community with the Top 40 music hits. It also wants to help protect your family, your life and your identity.

By tuning in to AFN Bavaria's radio newscast, Sgt. Kariem Cherifi, of 3rd Brigade, protected his hard earned money and saved \$50.

"I heard on the radio that gas prices were going to go up, but I still had time to buy gas coupons at the lower price," said Cherifi. "So I bought some coupons, and it was a good move because not only did gas prices go up, they went up and up."

AFN Bavaria is located in bldg. 303, next to the Jurkewicz Theater on Vilseck's Rose Bar-



Photo by Stefanie Stroell
Sgt. 1st Class Triggs

racks. Inside are Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and local nationals whose sole mission is to provide quality, state-side like entertainment, news and information that is relevant to service members, federal employees and their families.

The rumor that AFN is going away is unfounded. USAG Grafenwoehr and the Joint Multinational Training Center continue to grow and improve, and AFN Bavaria will increase its footprint to keep you informed on issues such as:

- The 18th Corps Support Battalion's Deployment Ceremony
- The differences between the Warrior Leader Course and the Primary Leadership Development Course
- Dangers of lost military IDs
- How speed kills
- Safety tips for trick-or-treating

"Individuals who live off-post should not miss out on pertinent information that is put out by the AFN staff. Just go to any Post Exchange customer service and ask to rent a decoder," said Steve Stevens, a re-order associate at the Vilseck PX. There are customer service branches in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels. Also, check the classifieds to buy a used one.

Kenneth Nicodemus, from the Community Mail Room, knows to tune in to the radio or watch the Bavarian Report on AFN Atlantic for up-to-date information on weather, road conditions and news. However, he didn't know that only a click away at www.afneurope.net/Bavaria/ he could get the same news released on both TV and radio; find out what's going on in the community or get to know the staff by reading their bios.

AFN Bavaria is one of six stations in North Germany. It is part of a larger organization, American Forces Radio and Television Service. The AFRTS-Broadcast Center, located in California, is responsible for the radio and television entertainment programming that is seen over-

seas. Locally, the producers are responsible for the "Bavarian Report" newscasts, the creative commercials that remind viewers to file their taxes, recycle, and what to do if sexually harassed.

Radio DJs are live during the week 5 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. It's during those times that most of the local need- and good-to-know information is put out.

"It was 1994 when AFN Bavaria went on the air at Rose Barracks," said Rainer Wunderlich, the station's chief engineer. Wunderlich remembers that the then former 100th ASG commander

wanted the station on his installation, and helped to fund the AFN Bavaria move from Nuernberg to its current location.

Everyday that AFN broadcasters are on the air, they want to keep the community entertained, informed and safe. And the way that happens is by inviting leaders, directors and concerned citizens to the station to talk about issues that affect our audience.

For questions about programming or to request coverage, visit the AFN Bavaria website. We are a direct link to the AFRTS-Broadcast Center.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Staff Sgt. Lucas Burns, the former host of the Big Gun radio show, shows SPC Kim-berly Wiley, the current morning show host, some tricks of the trade.

ICE takes Hohenfels by storm

by Alice Adler
Training Times

People in Hohenfels are making their voices heard in a big way. And it's causing a great deal of competition in offices all over post.

It is the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system that is taking Hohenfels by storm. This online customer comment system allows users to give direct feedback about virtually any military facility worldwide. Over 80 different facilities in Hohenfels are available for comment.

Anyone and everyone can log on to <https://ice.disa.mil> and choose from a list of service providers on Hohenfels. Everything

from AAFES to the Vet clinic to the housing office and the library are available. The lengthy list can be viewed all at once or broken down into categories such as "Health," "Recreation" or "Family."

Once you have found the right service provider, you are free to fill out an evaluation and write in your own comments concerning your experiences. These comments will go directly to both the facility involved and to the folks at the USAG Hohenfels.

In an effort to increase the use of the ICE system and make Hohenfels service providers more aware of customer service, Lt. Col. James Matheson, USAG Hohenfels commander, has started the "ICE League." Scored like baseball statistics, the ICE League

keeps track of the positive vs. negative comments a facility receives. Every month a pennant is awarded to the facility that received the best score. This pennant is then proudly displayed in the winning facility for the month. In October the Sunrise Lodge was the proud keeper of the award.

At the end of the fiscal year, all the scores will be tallied up and the winning facility will be presented with a trophy recognizing their customer service excellence.

Matheson reports that at first the facilities were wary of the ICE League, but now true competition has broken out between the facilities on Hohenfels, with each office striving to give the best customer service possible in an attempt to raise their League score. "It's a fun way of perpetuating good customer service," said Charlotte Hogan, USAG Hohenfels Chief of Plans, Analysis and Integration.

In addition to the monthly and year-end awards, Matheson keeps an eye on the ICE comments for names of individuals on Hohenfels who have repeatedly given customers exceptional service. These employees receive a visit from the commander who presents them with a coin in appreciation for their hard work.

"I don't see some of the things that go on every day," said Matheson. "The system is helpful to me – it gives me an excuse to talk to people who are doing a great job," he added.

Matheson has already awarded numerous coins to various individuals in Hohenfels, including personnel in the housing office, the Sunrise Lodge and FCC providers.

Perhaps surprisingly, the majority of comments logged onto the ICE system are positive. People in Hohenfels seem excited to speak out about the great service they receive.

Negative comments are handled very seriously as well. The ICE system gives users the option of writing comments anonymously or leaving their contact information. All facility managers are required to respond to negative comments as soon as possible. If the contact information is left, users can be assured that they will receive a phone call or an email about their comments.

Matheson encourages people to log their concerns into the ICE system. "We can't fix it if we don't know it's broken," he said.

If you are not computer savvy, don't worry. The traditional handwritten comment cards available in post facilities are also factored into the ICE system every month.

Hohenfels has been encouraging use of the ICE system and so far it seems to be working. Anette Stanis, Management Analyst, compiles the monthly ICE reports, and receives anywhere from 25 to 150 ICE comments every day for Hohenfels facilities alone.

"It really is a cool system," said Stanis, "It is a great tool for seeing what our customers think."



Photo by Franz Zeilmann

Holiday greetings big hit

USAG Grafenwoehr public affairs, AFN Bavaria and TSC Vilseck partnered to provide Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels communities the opportunity to send holiday video greetings home to friends and family. Pictured are CW3 Rufus Talbert, his spouse Doris, and children Mirinda and Mariah at the Oct. 20 taping at Graf's Tower View Restaurant.

AWAG – focused on the future

Built on 55-year proud history

by Becky Kennedy

AWAG Speaker Chair, GCSC Club AWAG Liaison

For the past 55 years, meetings of American spouses living in Germany have been held at least once a year. The origins of American Women's Activities – Germany can be traced to the fall of 1946, when Mrs. Anthony Biddell, wife of the Commanding General of the US Army of Occupation, formed a committee of eight women to plan one of the largest welfare organizations ever set up by volunteers. Known then as the American Occupation Women's Voluntary Service, they helped to coordinate the distribution of relief aid sent by stateside clubs and church groups to post-war Germany.

In 1948, the AOWVS added the additional purpose of assisting other welfare groups throughout Germany with suggestions and ideas. That same year, the first organized welfare conference was held and delegates gathered to report on their welfare projects as well as discuss problems and ideas. In 1950, the conference

focus was changed to one that eliminated written and oral welfare reports in favor on workshops and discussion groups where delegates could attend sessions concerning local issues and activities.

From 1950-1954, clubs in France, the United Kingdom, and Italy were invited to these conferences, now known as the International Conference of American Women's Activities. Due to the financial cost and distance required to attend the conference, each country organized a similar conference and in 1956, AWAG was formed.

Throughout the years, AWAG has grown and is represented by seven geographic areas throughout Germany. Each area puts on a one day conference for their community within their geographic areas. The Grand Conference is held in May so that newly elected board members will have an opportunity for training. AWAG also publishes *Never a Dull Moment*, a travel and shopping guide written by spouses stationed in Germany.

Ask anyone who has ever attended an AWAG conference and they will tell you how much they learned and what fun it is. I asked Ginger Perkins this question and she said, "AWAG Mini-Conference is a great forum to learn about many topics within a short amount of time. It is also affords the opportunity to network and share ideas. The annual AWAG Conference is a more in-depth concentration on topics with workshops and discussion groups."

AWAG is a non-profit, registered private organization administered by a volunteer board of governors who represent all branches of the armed forces and civilians serving within the European Command. The mission of AWAG is to train, strengthen and connect volunteers, their organizations, and their communities. Each person who belongs to a club or organization that supports AWAG is entitled to its services.

The annual Oberpfalz area AWAG conference will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tower View Restaurant in Gra-

fenwoehr. The cost for the conference is \$15 and includes lunch.

Topics covered in this year's conference will include: Common Sense Parenting, Meeting Management and Capturing Lessons Learned, Protocol-Diamond in the Rough, Taking the Mystery Out of Mutual Funds, German Cookery and Shopping, Made Nice and Simple, Three R's for Today's New Breed of Volunteers, DeCA-Secrets Revealed, Private Organizations: The Legal Do's and Don'ts, Preventing Death by Lecture, Special Event Photography, Board Positions, and "Meaty Issues" by the DeCA staff.

Join us for a day of fun, fellowship and professional development. Contact Vicky Cunningham at vicky.s.cunningham@us.army.mil, or phone 09662-83-2650 to pre-register or for more information. Pre-registration ends Nov. 11.



"Don't walk by" winter safety tips

by Shannon Hill

Training Times

As evidenced by the trees' falling leaves, the winter months are arriving. With the advent of these cold times comes an increased amount of awareness and responsibility. "Don't Walk By" serves as the motto for this year's Army Winter Safety Campaign, which started at the beginning of October and will run through April 2006.

The campaign recognizes that European winters present a wide range of potential hazards, so its overall purpose is to reduce the potential for accidental injury and death to Soldiers, civilians, and local national employees.

Soldiers and civilian employees are required to receive training on a number of safety topics. Three of these focus on off-duty recreation, vehicle/motorcycle safety, and risk management. Here are some safety standards in these areas to help smooth along the inevitable transition:

SPORTS & RECREATION. A flurry of outdoor activities often accompanies the arrival of the first snow flurries. Many participate in skiing, snowboarding, ice-skating, and sledding, among other things. Bodily injuries can be avoided through physical conditioning, education on the fundamentals of the sport, adequate lighting, avoiding alcoholic beverages, and wearing appropriate protective equipment.

VEHICLES & MOTORCYCLES. Road conditions in Europe can change very quickly due to heavy rain, fog, snow and ice. Drivers must remain alert and be prepared for possible

emergencies. Be aware of driving conditions and prepared to react in kind. This can include slower driving, and proper equipment for one's car – like snow chains and a blanket.

RISK MANAGEMENT. This is the process of identifying and controlling hazards. People should be able to identify hazards, assess the situation to determine risks, develop controls, and make risk decisions, implement controls, and supervise and evaluate standards and controls each and every time.

The inherent risks of the winter can be avoided and/or controlled. In keeping with these ideas, the "Don't Walk By" motto means to not walk by and assume someone else will fix the problem. Rather, according to Michael Schwarz, USAG Grafenwoehr safety director, people are encouraged to "fix the problem on the spot." Acting in accordance with these tips, people should have a pleasant and safe winter.

For Soldiers and civilian employees, more winter safety information can be accessed at http://www.per.hqusararu.army.mil/services/safetydivision/usareur_winter_safety_campaign.htm.



Schwarz

Flu update 2005-6

USAG Grafenwoehr Health Clinic

The 2005-2006 Influenza (Flu) Immunization Program runs from October 2005 through March of 2006. Here are some answers to common questions about the flu and flu vaccine:

I got the flu vaccine last year. Do I need to get it again? Yes. The virus that causes influenza is constantly changing. The vaccine is redesigned each year to protect against the current version of the virus.

Last year there was a vaccine shortage. What about this year? Unlike last year, this year's vaccine is in ample supply.

Who should get the vaccine? Anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. All Soldiers are required to receive the vaccine. Individuals at highest risk for complications of the flu should definitely get the vaccine. They include:

- People 65 years and older;
- Adults and children 2 years and older with chronic heart or lung conditions, including asthma; metabolic diseases (like diabetes); chronic kidney disease; or weakened immune system (including immune system problems caused by medicines (oral steroids) or by infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS))
- Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season (October through May)
- All children 6 to 23 months of age and adults who care for infants under 6 months old.

When should I get the vaccine? As soon as possible. It takes about two weeks after receiving the vaccine to develop immunity to the flu virus.

Who should not be vaccinated? Some people should not be vaccinated without first consulting a physician. They include:

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past.
- People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine previously.
- Children less than 6 months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for use in this age group).
- People who have a moderate or severe illness with a fever should wait to get vaccinated until their symptoms lessen.

How do I prevent the flu? Influenza is spread from person to person, primarily through contact with fluids from the mouth, nose, or eyes of infected individuals. To avoid getting the flu, or spreading it to others, there are some simple things you can do: avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home if you are sick, cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough, avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, and, like your mother always told you, wash your hands.

Treatment involves rest, fluids, medicine to bring down a fever, and time. Antibiotics are not effective against the flu.

Will the vaccine protect against the Avian (bird) flu that's been mentioned in the news? No. The Avian flu is caused by a different virus. A vaccine against the Avian flu is being developed.

How do I get more information? Contact your Health Clinic or go to www.cdc.gov/flu/

Personal protective measures against terrorism

USAG Grafenwoehr Department of Emergency Services

All Military, DA Civilians, and our Family Members in the USAG Grafenwoehr can become a target for terrorists. We have all seen the AFN commercials on terrorism and never traveling alone. You can decrease your chances of becoming a terrorist target by taking some precautions outlined below.

Always:

- Encourage Security Awareness in your family and discuss what to do if there is a security threat. Set up simple signal systems to alert family members or associates of danger.

- All Military, DA Civilian, and Family Members 14 years of age or older, are required to be Force Protection Level 1 Trained. You can complete this requirement online by going to <http://www.at-awareness.org> and enter the access code AWARE to begin the training module. Upon successful completion, you will receive a certificate of training.

- Be alert for any surveillance attempts or suspicious persons or activities and report to your local Military Police Station or the Installation Operations Center, B-621.

- Vary personal routines whenever possible.

- When possible, travel with a partner. You are less likely to be a victim when there is more than one.

- Know the emergency numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, and hospital.

- Keep a low profile. Shun publicity.

- Do not unnecessarily divulge your home address, phone number, or family information.

- Carry identification showing your blood type and any special medical conditions.

At Home:

- Have clear approaches to your home if living off the installation. Lock doors and windows whenever possible.

- Never leave house or trunk keys with your car if being serviced off post.

- Always lock your vehicle when not in use. Conduct a check of your vehicle before operations for any possible signs of tampering.

- Look for and report suspicious activity to the Military Police.

- Be careful with solicitors; never admit strangers to your home without proper identification.

- Initiate a Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program (SNAP). Contact the Department of Emergency Services (DES), B-2099, Vilseck, 475-4312 for more information.



Photos by Training Times Reporters

There were more Halloween and Fall Fest programs happening in USAG Grafenwoehr between Oct. 26 and 31 than you could shake a pumpkin at. Left to right: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mitchell Wilk speaks with students dressed as various saints for The Parade Of Saints Oct. 30 at the Hilltop Chapel Center, Vilseck. Amelie Carlisle tossed a ring over a pumpkin to win a prize at the Hohenfels PTSA Fall Carnival Oct. 28. Kris Dejesus and her daughter, Lydianna Dejesus, wear matching kimono outfits. A sorceress walks by a daunting Mummy at the Haunted Forest hosted by Graf's Health Clinic Oct. 29.

Future Business Leaders of America

Oct. 26 conference provides tools and skills to succeed

by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

Creative thinking, networking and the sharing of ideas and experiences were all the tools the students from Department of De-

fense Dependant Schools-Europe needed when they arrived at this year's Oct. 26 conference. The Fall Leadership Conference of the Future Business Leaders of America met at Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany, and this year's FBLA theme was "unmask the leader in you."

The conference gives students a chance to meet old friends from different parts of Europe, and make new friends as well. Students take lessons-learned from the workshops to improve their local FBLA group. "DoDDS-E has been sponsoring this conference for the past four years," said Robert Lykins, coordinator for DoDDS-E programs.

The conference workshops were divided into 45-minute sessions which were designed to help students learn techniques that may prove to be valuable in the business world.

"The reason we sponsor this conference is to provide a certain group of students who are interested in business as a future profession the tools they can use to be successful," said Lykins.

The 245 students that attended the conference learned many different things about the business world. The day was filled with workshops designed to work on leadership skills, manage personal finances, deal with time management issues and work on web page skills.

The participants of the conference were treated to a fashion show performed by their peers, and the conference ended with the FBLA's version of "The Apprentice" game.

The skills learned through the FBLA workshops can have life-long benefits, according to Lykins: "The skills learned here can be used not only in the schools to run efficient operations as far as fundraising and that type of thing is concerned. It also helps them to learn the skills that are necessary to succeed in business," he said.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Students from FBLA come up with strategies and marketing approaches for "The Apprentice" game during the conference.

F.A.S.T. program a big hit at GES

by Barbara K. Davis

The Grafenwoehr Elementary School held their Reading Fair Oct. 27 in conjunction with the PTSA Scholastic Book Fair. There were several sessions offered throughout the evening for parents to attend and to learn about literacy programs at GES. Among the presentations were Read 180, Reading Counts, Reading Starts with Us, Guided Reading, Literacy Coach and Student Presentations.

F.A.S.T., or Families and Schools Together, is a program designed to bring families into the school to learn more about our curriculum and programs offered. F.A.S.T. evenings are held once a quarter. These evenings are al-

ways well-attended by our Grafenwoehr Grizzlies and their parents.

In conjunction with F.A.S.T, the "We are Thankful for Reading" initiative has begun and will continue through Thanksgiving. Starting Nov. 3, GES students will take home a reading slip each Thursday and record the number of minutes read each day. Students who cannot read can record the number of minutes an adult reads to them. Each classroom will total all the minutes read for the class each week and record them on a graph located in Information Center. Parents and students are encouraged to stop by and watch the graphs grow each week. Happy reading!



Photo by Maureen Platt

Maj. Mary Cooper reads to Nell Dunn's Multiage 1st & 2nd grade class.



Photo by Shannon Hill

Richard Martinez, right, "weaves" children together for Red Ribbon Week.

Weaving the Red Ribbon

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

Students at Grafenwoehr Elementary School participated in the Oct. 24 kickoff ceremony for Red Ribbon Week, sponsored by the staff Army Substance Abuse Prevention program. The Red Ribbon symbolizes a commitment to a drugs, free, healthy lifestyle – no use of illegal drug, and no illegal use of a legal drugs. This year

marked the first time the national Red Ribbon Campaign has been presented to our communities, whose goal is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America. Creative methods were used to encourage students at Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, and Hohenfels to participate in and understand the purpose of Red Ribbon Week activities.

"Hawk" reading program takes flight

by Erika Meadows

The Accelerated Reader Program at Hohenfels Elementary School has been very successful for our students. The program allows students to accumulate points as they test on books that they have read.

Our school is very fortunate to have a great selection of the newest titles, thanks to the efforts of our Information Specialist, Betty Barron, and the support of our district and administration. AR has increased our library circulation to an average of over 200 books per day and made

life-long readers of our students.

This year the student body will have a school-wide point goal. This year's goal is 32,000 points. If the student body reaches 32,000 points by the end of the school year, the Hohenfels Hawk will personally visit and read to each classroom. So let's help our students to read, read, read.

We hear that the Hawk has been hovering above the school watching to see which students are reading. Keep looking for quarterly updates on our progress as the year continues.



Photo by Cindy Barbee

GES students display mixed reactions to Cecilia Meier's preserved bat.

Things get batty at GES

by Chris Manzo

The K-1 multi-age and first grade classes have been studying bats.

Cecelia Meier, from the Graf environmental office, came to talk with children about bats Oct. 21. She even brought a preserved bat to show the children, and they learned a lot of about bats in Germany. Students were able to walk out the front door of the school to see some bat houses

that were made by students from GES several years ago. Lots of projects have been happening in the classroom: painting bats, using toothpicks to show the bones in a bat's fingers, bat clips, measuring things the size of microbats and megabats. Ask one of these kids about bats and you will find out how "batty" the kids in the first grade and the K/1 multi-age classes really are. Of course, their teachers are "batty" too.

Youths and VFW partner for donations

by Sgt. 1st Class Christina L. Truesdale

Each year presents are donated to an orphanage in Most, Czech Republic. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9334, are partnering with the Grafenwoehr Teen Center Torch Club. The VFW has authorized members of the teen center to accept donations from the Graf Community at the Graf Teen Center, bldg. 503. A tree will be set up at the center through Nov. 30.

Gifts will be wrapped by the members of the Torch Club and delivered to the orphanage for their annual Christmas party by members of the VFW. This joint project is an Outreach Program for the Torch Club and a National Project for our youths.

Requirements are toys and gifts must be new, gifts do not have to be wrapped, and gifts should be age appropriate. The Graf Teen Center opens 4 p.m. daily. For more information, call DSN 475-7441.

Kuerbissuppe – German Pumpkin Soup

by **Martina Bias**
special to the Training Times

Halloween and Thanksgiving are the holidays that are usually associated with the use of pumpkin in the American kitchen. Americans love to savor this orange vegetable in many different dishes, but its most prominent use is certainly in baking.

The German celebration of Thanksgiving for a plentiful harvest takes place early in October. If your host-nation neighbors don’t end up using their pumpkins from that holiday display for the Jack-O-Lanterns that are becoming increasingly popular, then the pride of their garden is most likely to end up in a big cooking pot.

Germans are just starting to experiment with the use of this vitamin-filled vegetable in baking. The traditional method of preparing those giants from their gardens, however, is to cook



and can them as either a sweet compote, or pickle them in a sweet-and-sour fashion. Another tasty way the German housewife might serve the flesh of the pumpkin is in a savory soup.

The request for a recipe for a German pumpkin soup has come from a reader of the Training Times and I am happy to oblige.

I would like to point out that many German soups are not as thick as an American might expect. The reason for this is that they are usually not meant as a main course. More often, they are prepared as a warm appetizer to start off a festive meal. Germans often refer to these soups as Vorsuppe (before-soup).

The following soup is a wonderful example of such a tasty Vorsuppe. This family favorite came from a dear friend of mine and features wonderful German smoked ham and tasty home-made croutons.

So, try something different with your pumpkins this year. I am sure your family will be thankful if you serve them their vitamins in this yummy German dish.

Guten Appetit!

Kuerbissuppe

- 1 medium pumpkin (about 1 to 2 pounds)
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 8 Tbs. olive oil, divided useage
- 2 Tbs. butter
- 1/2 tsp. minced garlic
- 2 slices smoked ham, chopped
- 6 cups beef broth
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 slices of white bread

Cut open the pumpkin and remove seeds. With a sharp knife, remove the thick skin and dice the flesh. Measure about 6 cups chopped pumpkin meat.



Saute pumpkin cubes and diced onion in 2 Tbs. olive oil and butter over medium heat for about 2 minutes. Add minced garlic and chopped ham. Stir for 1 minute. Add beef broth, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer over low heat for about 25 minutes. Cool slightly. Puree soup in blender of food processor. Reheat and season to taste with more salt and pepper, if desired.

Cube white bread and fry in 2 Tbs. olive oil until golden brown and crispy.

Ladle soup into bowls. Top with a few drops of olive oil and the roasted bread cubes.

Yield: 4-6 servings

Extra tip: you may substitute purchased croutons for the roasted bread cubes, or experiment by topping the soup with roasted pumpkin seeds or hazelnuts.

Germans and Their Wood Piles

by **Martina Bias**
Special to the Training Times

Many days, when I leave the German village our housing area is located in, I see a little old man coming back from the nearby forest, dragging a small tree trunk behind him on a rope. This seems to be a daily ritual for this elderly German. One might wonder what he does with so much wood and where he gets it from. Repeatedly, my American friends have asked me why so many Germans have these massive wood piles around their houses, along the roads, in their backyards or stacked in the local woods.

It might surprise you to learn that aside from using the wood for the comforting display of a crackling fire in the living room, many Germans still use wood stoves and furnaces to cook and heat their home.

Wood burning stoves are still quite common, especially amongst the older population, but with rising costs of gas and oil, even the younger generation has rediscovered and improved this old-fashioned stand-by. Since Germans eat their main meal at lunchtime, the heat from the stove can be used to warm the house almost all day long. It may be fired up in the morning to heat the water for coffee and then the fire is being fed continuously until midday, as needed for meal preparation. Even if no more wood is added to the fire after that, the warm stove will continue to supply warmth for several hours.

While open fireplaces might not be the norm in most German homes, a beautiful Kachelofen (tile-oven) often is. These big, built-in furnaces have many functions. Located in the main living space of the house, they are often fed from a back opening located in an outside hallway or directly from the front. Depending on size, they might have a built-in bench to sit upon and enjoy the warmth, a ledge suitable to hang things to dry, an alcove to dry your wet boots or warm your mittens and hat, as well as a compartment to store wood so you don’t have to leave the warmth of the house all the time to bring in more. Although the tiles do not get hot to the touch, they give off warmth for hours, even after the fire has died. All this makes the Kachelofen the focal point of the German house in the winter. It provides a cozy place to meet, hang out and talk, while basking in its warmth.

Modern models of Kacheloefen are also very good examples for heat efficiency (70 percent) as well as for mounting ecological concerns. The optimal burning of wood only releases as much CO2 as the natural decomposition of wood would produce outdoors. Germans are very concerned with the proper management of their existing forests, so as not to disturb the ecological balance and endanger their supply of wood for future generations.

Many German families get their wood from their own wooded property. It is not always obvious, as fence lines are not drawn very often



Kachelofen

and “No Trespassing – Private Property”- signs are not posted, but many German woodlands are privately owned. However, it would not occur to most owners to make their property off limits to the general population, as Germans value their freedom to walk the countryside – a favorite past time not only for the elderly and dog owners, but many families on a sunny afternoon as well.

In those wooded areas that belong to the state,

the forestry office is in charge of the upkeep and health of the trees. Upon request, one is allowed to harvest trees or remove fallen limbs for firewood. Our local forestry officer would make arrangements with my father to thin out a certain area of the forest each year. The officer would mark the trees that he wanted removed and my family would go in and cut them down with as little damage to the surrounding foliage as possible.

Then began the task of sawing, splitting and stacking our “harvest,” as no German wants to be caught without an ample wood supply for the winter. That would mean that the man of the house did not provide adequately for his family, and we can’t have that. Imagine what the neighbors would say!

The reasons why many Germans seem to “hoard” so much firewood are varied. First, they are very particular about letting it “season,” so they have wood at different “age” stages. Second, the pile is often a joint work effort of the whole extended family and supplies numerous households. Third, it can be a source of income, as split wood is sold to people who do not have the time or place to gather and store their wood supply for the winter.

So, the next time you see a big German woodpile, think about all the warmth, traditions, and concern for the environment it represents. It is an integral part of German life in the past, the present and in the future.

Enjoy Thanksgiving meals at DFACs

USAG Grafenwoehr Directorate of Logistics

Want to enjoy a great Thanksgiving meal without going through all of the hassles of cooking? If so, leave the cooking to us and join us for a memorable time in one of our dining facilities. Thanksgiving meals will be hosted in the USAG Grafenwoehr DFAC, the Duke INN, the USAG Hohenfels DFAC, and the 1-4 Infantry DFAC.

The Duke INN, bldg. 603 in Rose Barracks, will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Their menu will feature turkey, roast pig, ham, honey-glazed Cornish hens, steamship round, roast duck, collard greens, yams, corn on the cob, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, savory bread dressing, corn bread dressing, a variety of salads, a variety of pies and desserts, and many other things to make your meal complete!

The 1-4 Infantry DFAC will serve their meal from noon to 3 p.m. in bldg. 857 in Camp Unteroedenhart. They will feature steamship round, breaded shrimp, glazed Cornish hens, beef tenderloin, ham, shrimp cocktails, corn on the cob, collard greens, black eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, chicken fried rice, candied sweet potatoes, steamed rice, corn bread dressing, savory bread dressing, different salads, a variety of pies and desserts, all of the fixings you could ever want – and of course turkey.

The USAG Hohenfels DFAC, bldg. 24 in

Camp Nainhof, will serve its Thanksgiving meal from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. You can feast on turkey, ham, prime rib, steamship round, fried and baked fish, rabbit, Cornish hens, fried

shrimp, shrimp cocktails, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, savory bread dressing, corn bread dressing, other assorted sides, and assorted pies and desserts.



The USAG Grafenwoehr DFAC, bldg. 3305 in Camp Normandy, will be open to the public from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Here you can have roast rib of beef, ham, lobster tails, fried shrimp, glazed Cornish hens, turkey, crab legs, roast duck, fried rabbit, shrimp cocktails, southern style greens, yams, buttered corn, savory bread dressing, corn bread dressing, macaroni and cheese, and all of the salads and desserts you’d expect for Thanksgiving.

Because seating in the USAG Grafenwoehr facility is limited, you will need to make a reservation if you plan on eating there (this applies to the Camp Normandy facility only). Members of the Grafenwoehr community will be invited to come in one of three serving periods: from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 12:15 to 1 p.m., and from 1 to 1:45 p.m. There will only be 135 seats for the community at-large in each of these periods, so please make your reservations early. Please call the USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office (PAO) at DSN 475-1600 or 09641-83-1600 to make your reservation.

Regardless of where you plan to feast, meals will cost \$5.80 for all military Soldiers, civilians, spouses, and dependents of E-5 Sergeants and above; it is \$4.90 for all dependents of E-4 Specialists and below.

We hope to see you there.

Regensburg – young city with Middle Age roots

by Angela Pietzsch
Special to Training Times

Imagine yourself at a farmers' market: A stand contains a small bowl with pieces of bread, and alongside are more bowls touting different kinds of self-made oils – like pumpkin seed oil or sunflower seed oil. The vendor also sells organic wine, and the two women next to him are selling organic vegetables, apples and carrots – the latter orange like the brightest sunrise. A few stands further on, several women sell eggs. And right in the middle of Donaumarkt, three elderly women wearing head-scarves sell flowers and fruits. Unfortunately, there is not enough money left in your wallet to buy flowers, but one of the old ladies tries anyway: "Don't you want some grapes instead?"

A visit to the historic city of Regensburg could start with the farmers' market on a Saturday morning. It is located at the Donaumarkt, a parking lot next to the Danube. Farmers from the surrounding villages sell their vegetables, fruits and flowers, and bakeries and butch shops sell their home-made goods.

But after all the nibbling at the market, now it is time for a walk.

Over the bridge, a small alley leads to another bridge – small, old, made of iron, and only for pedestrians and bicycle riders. It leads over the Jahn Island and ends at Am Gries, part of the old Stadthof. "Am Gries" is derived from an old high-German word for "sand" as the soil used to be very sandy.

Initially, only fishermen and potters used to live there – when the Europakanal, connecting the rivers Main and Danube, was built, the river mouth of the Regen feeding into the Danube was

changed dramatically and Stadthof finally became an island. Today, where Danube and Regen meet, old houses remind visitors of historic times while children today play ball along the green shores of the river.

In one of these parks, on the edge of Stadthof, is the Andreasstadel. The house used to be a Stadel, a barn. A few years ago, the huge white building was turned into a house where cultural events are held. It houses a restaurant, a hotel and an art academy. The path through the trees alongside Andreasstadel allows for spectacular views over the small balconies and winter gardens of the old houses build directly on an anabranch of the Danube. The path leads to Germany's oldest stone bridge, the Steinerne Brücke. It was built from 1135 until 1146 and was about to be torn down at the beginning of the 20th century. Fortunately, politicians decided differently. Right from its start in Stadthof, the bridge, which was an inspiration for the builders of Prague's Charles Bridge, offers a great sight of the old part of Regensburg: The red Salzstadel, which used to be a storehouse for salt transported on the Danube, glows in the morning light and almost



Photo by Angela Pietzsch
The townhall tower reflected in the Danube on the shores of Jahninsel.

outshines the huge cathedral of St. Peter in the background.

Left of the Salzstadel is a small house painted in green. A tiny chimney puffs grey smoke. In front of the house are benches and tables, neatly decorated with flowers. Opening the brown wooden door to the house, steam obstructs the view. Waitresses are busy serving their customers Wurstkuchl – said to be the oldest sausage booth in the world. What they serve tastes like a mix of sweet and sour. Three small original Regensburg sausages are put into a Schwarzer Kipferl, a role made of rye wheat and seasoned with caraway. The sausages are imbedded in sauerkraut and spread with sweet mustard.

Exploring the old part of Regensburg through all the small alleys is not a problem. Red signs lead the way to Schloss St. Emmeram. The castle was connected to the cloister of St. Emmeram in 1812, and is now one of Germany's biggest castles – said to be even bigger than Buckingham Palace.

The castle landowner is Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, also known as the "Princess of Pop" in the 80s when she wore punk hairstyle

and appeared on TV shows. After her husband's death, she turned into a clever business woman who managed to save her property: During the summer, Gloria organizes a festival in the historic site which features famous operas and plays. In winter, the castle hosts one of the most romantic Christmas markets – one of three in Regensburg. Showmen dress in clothes from the Middle Ages and sell suckling pigs from the spit, mead – honey wine – and Feuerzangenbowle, (burnt punch) – and demonstrate old crafts, like the forging of iron.

Continue on through small alleys and by huge palaces with towers for which Regensburg is known as the "most northern city of Italy," the red signs lead you to the cathedral of St. Peter.

Build from 1250 onwards, it is one of the churches where Pope Benedict XIV used to pray when he was still living in the district of Pentling and teaching at the university of Regensburg. The cathedral was finally finished in 1856, when it received its pinnacles.

St. Peter is also home to the Regensburger Domspatzen, a world-famous boys' choir which was conducted by the pope's brother, Georg Ratzinger, until 1994.

Just around the corner of St. Peter is the oldest reminiscence of the city of Regensburg and the end of the tour. Settlers already urbanized the beautiful spot along the Danube during the Stone Age, but the Romans finally founded the camp Castra Regina in 179 A.D. Today, there is still the Porta Pretoria remaining in the walls of the Bischofshof restaurant, which also features a brewery. The Porta Pretoria, with its huge grey and black stones, used to be the main gate of Castra Regina.

Horseback riding, an activity for everyone

Local area full of opportunity

by Stefanie Stroell
AFN-Bavaria

There is a German saying: "The luck of the world lies on the back of horses," and if you ask me – it is true. It's an overwhelming feeling when you and your horse speed down an open field, racing the horse and rider next to you with the wind going through your hair.

Look...there lies an old tree on its side. You softly steer your black stallion towards it. *Fury* sees it, musters his horsepower and jumps right over it.

Or imagine your son or daughter getting ready for their first tournament, all dressed up in their riding gear, a bit nervous trying to remember their riding drills.

Either way, horseback riding is a passionate experience, which has a lot of advantages and benefits. For example, your self-esteem increases with every lesson as you achieve control

of your horse, guiding the power of such a proud and enchanting animal. It gives you a lot of physical exercise, hours in the fresh air, and an opportunity to meet new friends. Furthermore, you have the chance to go on western-style trail rides to explore the local area and enjoy picnics at historic sites. You could even join a horse club and tromp in a parade, and earn a ribbon from the event that you will cherish forever.

All that combined gives you great stress-relieving and health-improving family entertainment...and it's right around the corner and not as expensive as you may think.

There is no age limit. Kids should be 8-years-old to start riding, but there are always exceptions to the rule. If you want to get into the English-style, with shiny black leather boots, or join the ranks of the more experienced riders to learn jumping and dressage, then you are never too old, too young, too small, too tall or too heavy for it. This is a fun-loving sport for everyone.

What you should always know before climbing atop that Mr. Ed, Charley horse or Seabiscuit are the safety issues. Make sure that your horse stable has appropriate insurance, and check with your own health insurance about coverage in case of an emergency. Always wear a helmet, appropriate gloves, suitable pants and the right shirt to keep you warm and dry. And last but not least – always carry a carrot or an apple for your horse.

Stables in the USAG Grafenwoehr area are near Vilseck, Hohenfels, Hahnbach, Amberg, and Auerbach. They all offer qualified theoretical and practical riding lessons, guided trail rides, indoor and outdoor riding, tournaments, parades and open-house days.

For local events, phone numbers of stables and POCs, log onto www.afneurope.net, select the Bavaria link and click on the community calendar.



Photo by Stefanie Stroell
Teenage riding students help and support each other by fixing the saddle straps before lessons start.

Join the Graf G-A Ski Club

USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

Travel to Austria's Stubai Tal ski resort, featuring 100 kilometers of ski runs with 20 lifts, on the Nov. 23-27 trip with the Graf/Vilseck German-American Snowboarding and Ski Club.

The 260 Euro price tag (children can get a discount) provides you with transportation, four overnights with breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Bergland, a 4-day lift pass, and much more. Final payment for the trip is due Nov. 17.

The ski club also has trips planned in 2006 to the Austrian ski resorts of Flachau (Jan. 13-16) and Ischgl (Feb. 17-20).

All ski levels are welcome on their trips. To get more information about upcoming trips and club membership, visit their website at <http://grafskiclub.50megs.com>, e-mail renate.neaverth@us.army.mil or call DSN 475-7361 or civilian 09641-83-7361.



Dec. 17 memorial walk in Belgium

Commemorates Battle of the Bulge

USAG-Benelux Public Affairs

CHIEVRES, Belgium – The 28th memorial walk commemorating the Battle of the Bulge, the greatest land battle in U.S. Army history, is Dec. 17, in Bastogne, Belgium.

The six-, 14- or 20-kilometer walk, is around the eastern defensive line held by paratroopers of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division in December, 1944. The walk begins at 8 a.m. at a new location this year, the Centre Sportif "Porte de Tréve."

There is a mandatory four euro charge per person for walker's insurance. The fee also in-

cludes a certificate from the city of Bastogne and a small souvenir. Pre-registration and payment by Dec. 5 is recommended; no refunds will be given.

The walk finishes in time for three wreath-laying ceremonies downtown. The public is invited to participate in the parade, which begins at 2:45 p.m. The traditional nut thrown from the town hall balcony follows immediately.

Americans in Germany must register through Ed Lapotsky at ed.germany@t-online.de; fax, 0049-(0) 6507-80-2617; or telephone, 0049-(0) 6507-8292.

Holiday Ball 2005

7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command and U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr

Invite you to an evening of

- Dinner, Dancing, Karaoke and a visit from Santa
- Friday evening, December 9th
- Doors open at 6 p.m.
- Event begins at 7 p.m. at Stadthalle, Grafenwoehr

Costs:

- Dinner – 21 Euro
- Cash Bar
- Dress: Formal
- Military: Dress Blue Uniform or Class A Uniform with bow tie

Contact your unit or department representative for tickets, or call DSN 475-6221

CHILD CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE

WHEN: December 9, 2005 6 p.m. - midnight

WHERE: Grafenwoehr CDC

AGES: 6 weeks - 11 years-old

COST: \$4 per hour plus a \$5 reservation fee

Children must be registered with CYS prior to Dec. 9

For more information, contact Anita Payne-Landgraf at 475-8430

Bulldogs defeat Chiefs in flag football

Capture USAG Graf unit level championship

by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

“It was a hard fight, but we stayed in it till the end. We lost the first game, but we came out in the next three games and we won. I thank my teammates for staying focused on the job we had to do,” said Andrew Jones, of the HHC, USAG Grafenwoehr unit level flag football champions. The tournament was held Oct. 21-23 in Grafenwoehr.

The HHC team won the tournament after playing four consecutive games for the title. The first game of the day pitted HHC against C. Co., 1-4 Infantry from Hohenfels. The teams scored touchdowns back-to-back, but C. Co. made a touchdown in the last few minutes of the game and won by a score of 26-20. The loss sent HHC to the loser’s bracket.

In the second game, HHC faced C. Co. 2-63 from Vils-
eck. HHC rolled past C. Co. 2-63 by a score of 33-6. They next faced C. Co. 1-4 Infantry in the championship match. The HHC Bulldogs defeated the C. Co. Infantry Chiefs by a score of 38-7.

The Bulldogs’ win forced another game between the two teams.

In the first quarter the Bulldogs and the Chiefs were scoreless. Things changed in the second quarter when Bulldogs’ Nathan Gardner connected with Andrew Jones for a touchdown. They increased the score to seven points when quarterback Quentin Young threw the extra

point pass to Eddie Facyson. The Chiefs started rallying back, but Young’s interception with 1:17 seconds remaining on the clock before half-time stopped the Chiefs running game. The score at halftime had the Bulldogs ahead of the Chiefs 7-0.

In the third quarter an interception by Bulldogs’ Jajuan Daniels deep in the Chiefs territory set up a 66-yard run touchdown by Gardner. Quarterback Young ran the ball in for the extra point and the Bulldogs led by a score of 14-0. In the fourth quarter both teams were scoreless. The Bulldogs took the game and the title of USAG Grafenwoehr Champions by defeating the Chiefs 14-0.

“Next we will go to Darmstadt,” said Jones. “We will try to take USAREUR. We have to do it one step at a time and come out here and practice some more,” he added.

This will be the second year in a row the Bulldogs have made it to the playoffs. The second and first place teams will represent USAG

Grafenwoehr in the upcoming playoffs in Darmstadt.

“It was a great come-back by the USAG-G, and they will be headed to IMA-E in Darmstadt the third through the sixth of November to play in the finals. There are three fields there, and we will probably use two of those fields for the tournament. I wish both teams good luck,” said Tony Lee, the local MWR chief of recreation and programming.



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Jajuan Daniels of HHC, USAG Grafenwoehr, out-maneuvers Hohenfels player Isaiah Calloway during the championship game.

In brief

Turkey shoot set

A Turkey Shoot-Out will be held at the Koenigstein Golf Course Nov. 12. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. while tee time begins at 9 a.m. For more information, call 476-4107, or 09662-83-4107.

Power Lifting Tournament

The 2005 IMA-Europe MWR Power Lifting Tournament will be Nov. 19 on Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. Weigh-in and registration will be 8-9:30 a.m. Lift-off begins at 10 a.m. All men and women U.S. identification card holders may participate. Call 373-5022 or 379-7693 for more information.

Children’s basketball coaches needed

All three communities are seeking volunteer coaches for the Child and Youth Services basketball season. Cheerleading Coaches for the Basketball season are also being sought. Individuals interested in coaching should contact their local CYs offices. Call 475-6656 or 09641-83-6656 in Grafenwoehr; 466-2488 or 09472-83-2488 in Hohenfels; and 476-3271 or 09662-83-3271 for more information.

Children’s basketball season

Registration for USAG-G CYs Sports basketball season continues through Nov. 18. The program is open to children, ages three to 15. Call 475-6656 or 09641-83-6656 in Grafenwoehr; 476-3271 or 09662-83-3271 to register or for more information.

Hohenfels Turkey Trot

Hohenfels will host its Turkey Trot 2005 on Nov. 19. This 5K Fun Run will start at the Post Gym, bldg. 88. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race starts at 8:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for men and women, boys and girls. Free t-shirts to the first 100 participants. Call Bill Craven at 466-2868 for more information.

Vilseck’s Lady Falcons end season 4-4

JV volleyball team keeps getting better

by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

The Division II Lady Falcons junior varsity team completed their season Oct. 29 with an overall record of 4-4.

“In our division we ended up with a record of 3-1. I was really proud of the girls for working hard and pulling through this season,” said coach Robbie Swint.

The Lady Falcons played their last two matches at home in the school’s multi-purpose room in front of a cheering crowd.

The first team they played and defeated was the division III team from Hohenfels with scores of 25-27, 25-22 and 15-7. In the first match Christine Hollands came up big for the Falcons with six serving aces and Ashley Cortez had a

great passing game to keep the play and rally points going. Despite all the efforts of the Lady Falcons they lost the match.

In the second match the Lady Falcons turned the game around. Hollands had seven serving aces and Sarah Hearn and Cortez kept the ball moving with great passing. In the third and final match of the contest, Jessica Eastman and Hearn both had four serving aces. Good passing by Hearn and Eastman made the game come alive for the home crowd. The team kept on playing hard until the last whistle was blown and never gave Hohenfels a chance to play catch-up in any of the matches.

“It was a really good match,” said Swint. “The girls deserved to win the game.”

In the second contest of the day, the Lady Falcons came up short against the Division I team

from Wuerzburg. The scores were 15-12, 18-25, and 25-17. Vilseck won the first match with strong serving by Jill Aviles and April Odom. The team efforts on passing by Aviles, Cortez, Holland Odom and Hearn contributed to the first match win. The tables turned in the second match with serving aces and passing held to a minimum. In the third match the Lady Falcons hustled, dived and scrambled for the volleyball, but Wuerzburg took the match and won the contest.

Swint summed his season up as the Lady Falcons junior varsity coach with: “I believe it’s not how you start, but how you finish. The junior varsity girls started out slow, but finished strongly. As a coach you hope to have a team that gets better, and the young Lady Falcons accomplished that goal.”



Photos by Alice Adler

Competition was fierce the weekend of Oct. 29 and 30 as Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels youth soccer teams battled it out in the local championships. The crisp fall weekend was the perfect setting for fans from all sides to come out and cheer on their teams.

N
O
W

S
H
O
W
I
N
G

MOVIES BEGIN 7 P.M. AND MATINEES 1 P.M.

(09662-83-1790)

VILSECK

7 Nov	Mon	Closed
8 Nov	Tue	Closed
9 Nov	Wed	March Of The Penguins (G) F&F Night
10 Nov	Thur	40 Year Old Virgin (R)
11 Nov	Fri	Red Eye (PG-13)
12 Nov	Sat	North Country (R) Premiere
13 Nov	Sun	March Of The Penguins (G) Matinee
13 Nov	Sun	The Cave (PG-13)
14 Nov	Mon	Closed
15 Nov	Tue	Closed
16 Nov	Wed	Dreamer (PG) F&F Night
17 Nov	Thur	Transporter 2 (PG-13)
18 Nov	Fri	The Weather Man (R) Premiere
19 Nov	Sat	Must Love Dogs (PG-13)
20 Nov	Sun	Undiscovered (PG-13)
21 Nov	Mon	Closed
22 Nov	Tue	Closed
23 Nov	Wed	Red Eye (PG-13)
24 Nov	Thur	Closed....Happy Thanksgivings
25 Nov	Fri	Cry Wolf (PG-13)
26 Nov	Sat	Just Like Heaven (PG-13)
27 Nov	Sun	Chicken Little (G) Matinee
27 Nov	Sun	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
28 Nov	Mon	Closed
29 Nov	Tue	Closed
30 Nov	Wed	Roll Bounce (PG-13)

(09472-83-1790)

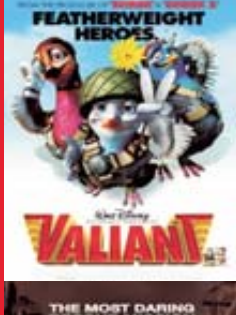
HOHENFELS

7 Nov	Mon	Closed
8 Nov	Tue	Closed
9 Nov	Wed	Dreamer (PG) F&F Night
10 Nov	Thur	The Cave (PG-13)
11 Nov	Fri	The Weather Man (R) Premiere
12 Nov	Sat	The Skeleton Key (PG-13)
13 Nov	Sun	Valiant (G) Matinee
13 Nov	Sun	Two for the Money (R) Premiere
14 Nov	Mon	Closed
15 Nov	Tue	Closed
16 Nov	Wed	March of the Penguins (G) F&F Night
17 Nov	Thur	Red Eye (PG-13)
18 Nov	Fri	Chicken Little (G) Premiere
19 Nov	Sat	Dreamer (PG) Premiere
20 Nov	Sun	Four Brothers (R)
21 Nov	Mon	Closed
22 Nov	Tue	Closed
23 Nov	Wed	Must Love Dogs (PG-13)
24 Nov	Thur	Closed....Happy Thanksgivings
25 Nov	Fri	Transporter 2 (PG-13)
26 Nov	Sat	Roll Bounce (PG-13)
27 Nov	Sun	March of the Penguins (G) Matinee
27 Nov	Sun	The Man (PG-13)
28 Nov	Mon	Closed
29 Nov	Tue	Closed
30 Nov	Wed	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere

(09641-83-1790)

GRAFENWOEHR

7 Nov	Mon	Closed
8 Nov	Tue	Closed
9 Nov	Wed	Closed
10 Nov	Thur	Red Eye (PG-13)
11 Nov	Fri	North Country (R) Premiere
12 Nov	Sat	The Cave (PG-13)
13 Nov	Sun	Must Love Dogs (PG-13)
14 Nov	Mon	Closed
15 Nov	Tue	Closed
16 Nov	Wed	Closed
17 Nov	Thur	The Weather Man (R) Premiere
18 Nov	Fri	Transporter 2 (PG-13)
19 Nov	Sat	40-Year Old Virgin (R)
20 Nov	Sun	Chicken Little (G) Matinee
20 Nov	Sun	Red Eye (PG-13)
21 Nov	Mon	Closed
22 Nov	Tue	Closed
23 Nov	Wed	Closed
24 Nov	Thur	Closed....Happy Thanksgivings
25 Nov	Fri	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
26 Nov	Sat	The Man (PG-13)
27 Nov	Sun	Cry Wolf (PG-13)
28 Nov	Mon	Closed
29 Nov	Tue	Closed
30 Nov	Wed	Closed



40-Year-Old Virgin

Rated R (pervasive sexual content, language and some drug use)
Running Time: 111min.
Stars: Steve Carell, Catherine Keener
Synopsis:
40-year-old Andy Stitzer has done quite a few things. Andy's never, ever, ever had sex.

Chicken Little

Rated G (general audiences)
Running Time: 81min.
Stars: Don Knotts, Zack Braff
Synopsis:
The movie picks up where the classic fable ends, namely after he mistakes a falling acorn for a piece of the sky.

Dreamer: Inspired By A True Story

Rated PG (brief mild language)
Running Time: 98min.
Stars: Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning
Synopsis:
Ben Crane, whose gifts as a trainer were now being wasted on making other men's fortunes.

The Great Raid

Rated R (strong war violence and brief language)
Running Time: 132min.
Stars: Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, Connie Nielsen, Joseph Fiennes, Mark Consuelos
Synopsis:
Set in the Philippines in 1945, tells the true story of the 6th Ranger Battalion, who undertake a daring rescue mission against all odds.

Just Like Heaven

Rated PG-13 (some sexual content)
Running Time: 85min.
Stars: Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo
Synopsis:
When David sublet his quaint San Francisco apartment, the last thing he expected -- or wanted -- was a roommate. Elizabeth suddenly shows up, adamantly insisting the apartment is hers

March Of The Penguins

Rated G (general audiences)
Running Time: 80min.
Stars: Morgan Freeman
Synopsis:
Penguins overcome daunting obstacles in order to return to their breeding grounds for mating season. This tells the story of one year in the life of a flock. Focusing on one couple in particular.

North Country

Rated R (sexual harassment, violence, dialogue, and for language)
Running Time: 98min.
Stars: Brad Henke, Frances McDormand, Jeremy Renner, Sissy Spacek
Synopsis:
First successful sexual harassment case in the United States -- Jenson vs. Eveleth mines, where a woman who endured a range of abuse while working as a miner filed and won the landmark 1984 lawsuit.

Roll Bounce

Rated PG-13 (language and some crude humor)
Running Time: 107min.
Stars: Bow Wow, Chi McBride
Synopsis:
In the late '70s when roller-skating was a way of life, X and his pals ruled supreme. But when the doors of their local skating rink close, it marks the end of an era and the beginning of another.

Supercross

Rated PG-13 (language and some sexuality)
Running Time: 80min.
Stars: Steve Howey, Mike Vogel, Daryl Hannah, Robert Patrick
Synopsis:
This motorcycle saga revolves around two brothers making their way into the world of competitive motorcycle racing.

Transporter 2

Rated PG-13 (violent action, sexual content, partial nudity and brief language)
Running Time: 98min.
Stars: Jason Statham, Alessandro Gassman, Amber Valletta
Synopsis:
Martin makes a living driving for a wealthy family, including twin brothers with whom he has unexpectedly bonded. But when the boys are abducted, Martin must use all his skills to bring them to safety and discover the kidnapper's master plan.

Undiscovered

Rated PG-13 (sexual material including dialogue, partial nudity, language and drug content)
Running Time: 97min.
Stars: Pell James, Steven Strait, Kip Pardue, Shannyn Sossamon, Fisher Stevens, Carrie Fisher
Synopsis:
An aspiring New York model falls in love with a struggling musician when they suddenly cross paths on a subway train. Having achieved success as a model, she decides to move to L.A. To launch an acting career.

The Cave

Rated PG-13 (intense creature violence)
Running Time: 97min.
Stars: Morris Chestnut, Eddie Cibrain
Synopsis:
A rescue team is sent down into the world's largest cave system to try to find the spelunkers who first explored its depths.

Cry Wolf

Rated PG-13 (violence, terror, disturbing images, language, sexuality, drug reference)
Running Time: 90min.
Stars: Julian Morris, Jon Bon Jovi
Synopsis:
Owen Matthews is sent to prestigious Westlake Prep - where a young woman has recently been found murdered in the dark woods near the boarding school's campus.

Four Brothers

Rated R (strong violence, pervasive language and some sexual content)
Running Time: 109min.
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Tyrese Gibson, Andre Benjamin, Garrett Hedlund
Synopsis:
Four adopted brothers come together to bury the woman who raised them. At the funeral, the brothers discover that their mother may have been murdered and they want revenge.

Get Rich Or Die Tryin'

Rated R (violence, language, sexuality and a drug reference)
Running Time: 134min.
Stars: Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson
Synopsis:
An orphaned street kid makes his mark in the drug trade, but dares to leave the violence of his former life behind to pursue a promising career in the music business as a rapper.

The Man

Rated PG-13 (some violence, language and some crude humor)
Running Time: 84min.
Stars: Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy
Synopsis:
Special Agent Derrick Vann is a man out to get the man who killed his partner.

Must Love Dogs

Rated PG-13 (sexual content)
Running Time: 88min.
Stars: Diane Lane, Elizabeth Perkins, Alli Hillis, John Cusack, Christopher Plummer
Synopsis:
Tells the story of Sarah Nolan, a newly divorced woman cautiously rediscovering romance with the enthusiastic but often misguided help of her well-meaning family.

Red Eye

Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violence, and language)
Running Time: 85min.
Stars: Rachel McAdams, Cillian Murphy
Synopsis:
Lisa Reisert hates to fly, but the terror that awaits her on the night flight to Miami has nothing to do with a fear of flying.

The Skeleton Key

Rated PG-13 (Violence, Disturbing Images, Some Partial Nudity And Thematic Material)
Running Time: 104min.
Stars: Kate Hudson, Gena Rowlands, Peter Sarsgaard, John Hurt, Joy Bryant
Synopsis:
Set largely in the dark backwoods just outside of New Orleans, Caroline, a live-in nurse hired to care for an elderly woman's ailing husband in their home...a foreboding and decrepit mansion in the Louisiana Delta.

Two For The Money

Rated R (pervasive language, a scene of sexuality and a violent act)
Running time: 98min.
Stars: Al Pacino, Matthew McConaughey, Rene Russo
Synopsis:
Brandon Lane is a former college football star whose uncanny ability to predict the outcome of a game introduces him to an unexpected new career when his gridiron glory is sidelined by a crushing injury.

Valiant

Rated G (general audiences)
Running Time: 109min.
Stars: Ewan McGregor, Tim Curry
Synopsis:
A brave-but-undersized pigeon named Valiant (voiced by Ewan McGregor), who dreams of joining the elite royal homing pigeon service and serving crown and country during World War I.

The Weather Man

Rated R (strong language and sexual content)
Running Time: 102min.
Stars: Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine
Synopsis:
Popular Chicago weatherman, Dave Spirtz, has a shot at the big time when a national morning television show calls him for an audition.

THEATERS

LISTEN TO AFN FOR MOVIE UPDATES!